

main part of its food. The rattling of this loose bark caused by its bill, when thrust beneath it, is often very plainly heard.

In concluding my notes on Hawaiian birds, I would take this opportunity of correcting some unfortunate mistakes which were overlooked in my former paper*. That there should be some is not to be wondered at, as I had not a book of any sort for reference, and until my return to England I saw no copy of that paper, those sent to me having unfortunately miscarried. For *Psittacirostra psittacea* throughout, read *Loxioides bailleui*, and *vice versâ*. In the same way, *Hemignathus obscurus* and *H. olivaceus* should be transposed, the latter being the bird I now call *H. wilsoni*. For "Akakani," p. 102, read "Akakane"; for "Elepeio," p. 110, "Elepaio"; for "Ona ka ia" (in two places), "Ono ka ia." The Palila, p. 104, is really the name of *Loxioides*, not *Chloridops*; the Ou-po-papale (so written by natives, but probably more correctly Ou-poo-papale) is the yellow-headed male of the *Psittacirostra*.

IX.—*Description of a new Species of Finch of the Genus Crithagra from South-east Africa.* By H. B. TRISTRAM, LL.D., D.D., F.R.S.

IN a small series of skins received some months since from my friend Dr. Percy Rendall, collected by him at Barberton in the Transvaal, were a pair of Finches of the genus *Crithagra*, which I was unable to identify with any known species. Happening to be in London a few days ago, I took the opportunity of showing the birds to Dr. Sharpe and Capt. Shelley, who both agreed with me that the species was, so far as we knew, undescribed. Dr. Percy Rendall tells me he shot the pair out of a small flock which he put up in a piece of scrub some distance from Barberton, and that in all his expeditions he never met with the bird again. The bill seems to me peculiar, very angular, like that of the Greenfinch, but much sharper at its angles and rather compressed laterally. I subjoin the description.

* 'The Ibis,' January 1893, pp. 101. *et seqq.*

CRITHAGRA RENDALLI, sp. nov.

C. ♂. Fronte et loris flavis : capite et collo flavis, brunneo angustè striatis : scapularibus, tergo, et uropygio brunneo-nigris, flavo-marginatis : subtùs totus aurantiaco-flavus : remigibus et rectricibus fuscis, flavo-marginatis : subalaribus pallidè flavescentibus : rostro nigro : tarsis et pedibus fuscis.

♀. Suprà nigrescenti-fusca, plumis albedo-marginatis : loris et spatio interoculari albidis : subtùs pallidè flavida, striis fuscis rarioribus angustioribus : subalaribus albescentibus : rostro, tarsis, et pedibus fuscis.

Long, tot. 5 poll., alæ 2·75, tarsi ·66, rostri à rictu ·5.

Hab. Barberton, Transvaal.

Both specimens were taken on the 16th Feb., 1894.
[“ Irides hazel,” P. Rendall.]

X.—*On Use and Abuse of Generic Terms.* By H. B. TRISTRAM,
LL.D., D.D., F.R.S.

I PRESUME it will be universally admitted that no part of the scheme of the great founder of modern natural science is of greater practical value to the student than the binomial system—or, inasmuch as genera are purely ideal, I might more accurately say, the binomial theory of Linnæus. Yet, though genera are arbitrary divisions, and therefore can be multiplied or diminished at pleasure, it surely does not follow that any author is justified in capriciously adding to their number.

A genus has been defined to be a re-union of races called species, brought together by a consideration of their relations, and constituting so many small series, limited by characters which are chosen arbitrarily in order to circumscribe them. But, though chosen arbitrarily, they should surely be chosen consistently. Forgetfulness of this principle by writers each of whom has his own idea, or more frequently none at all, of the conception of a genus, has led to the repulsive list of synonyms in barbarous and grotesque compounds, purporting to be derived from the classic tongues, which follow the selected generic name in every ornithological treatise we open.